

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 85

2 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS S. 1028 AND H. R.
12 1734, THE FEDERAL MEN'S HEALTH ACT OF 2003, WHICH AMEND THE
13 FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT AND ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF
14 MEN'S HEALTH.

15
16 WHEREAS, male morbidity and mortality from preventable
17 causes is substantial, with significant and alarming
18 disparities among subpopulations of men based on race,
19 ethnicity and socioeconomic status; and

20 WHEREAS, life expectancy for males in New Mexico is
21 seventy-two and eight-tenths years of age compared to seventy-
22 seven and three-tenths years of age for women in the state and
23 seventy-four and one-tenth years of age for males nationwide;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, a silent health crisis is affecting the health

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1 and well-being of American men; and

2 WHEREAS, this health crisis is of particular concern to
3 men but is also a concern for women and families; and

4 WHEREAS, the national center for health statistics has
5 shown that men have higher age-adjusted death rates than women
6 for each of the ten leading causes of death in the United
7 States; and

8 WHEREAS, the state center for health statistics has shown
9 that men have higher death rates than women for seven of the
10 eight leading causes of death in New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, men are almost twice as likely as women to die
12 from heart disease, the incidence of stroke is over ten percent
13 higher in men than in women and men are fifty percent more
14 likely to die of cancer than women; and

15 WHEREAS, the life expectancy gap between men and women has
16 steadily increased from one year in 1920 to five and one-half
17 years in 2000; and

18 WHEREAS, studies show that the huge disparity between men
19 and women is due in part to a lack of awareness, poor health
20 education and the low number of male-specific health programs;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, men are one-half as likely as women to visit a
23 doctor for regular physician checkups or to obtain preventive
24 screening tests for serious diseases; and

25 WHEREAS, men's health is also a concern for employers who

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1 lose employee productivity as well as pay the employer's
2 portion of health care coverage costs; and

3 WHEREAS, men's health is also a concern for federal and
4 state governments, the private sector and the general public,
5 which absorb the enormous costs of premature death and
6 disability, including the costs of caring for surviving
7 dependents; and

8 WHEREAS, every state has formed a commission to address
9 women's issues or has established a women's health program but
10 only seven states have a commission to address men's issues or
11 a men's health program; and

12 WHEREAS, educating men, their families and health care
13 providers about the importance of early detection of male
14 health problems can result in reducing rates of mortality of
15 male-specific diseases as well as improving the health of
16 America's men and, as a result, the nation's overall economic
17 well-being;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support and encourage national,
20 state and local efforts to secure access and remove barriers to
21 health care for men and their family members; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature encourage the
23 New Mexico congressional delegation to support the passage of
24 the Men's Health Act of 2003, currently under consideration as
25 S. 1028 and H. R. 1734; and

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